

MEMBER NEWS

In the News

By Ronnie Aungst



In my research I have run across many, let's call them 'snippets'; of news that I have found interesting. These are from various newspapers, identified with each article. I hope you enjoy learning a bit of the day-to-day life of our forefathers as much as I have...

FIRE — The dwelling house of S. L. Lowing, Esq., of Georgetown was destroyed by fire, on the 6th inst. The entire contents, which embraced every thing in the Post Office as well as in the supervisor's office, were consumed. The last assessment roll, however, had been left with the county clerk and consequently escaped destruction." — *Grand River Times*, Oct. 19, 1853, page 2

"Mr. Lowing stated to the board there was an insane person in the township of Georgetown and requested the appointment of a committee to investigate the case, and report to the board the proper disposition to be made of such cases." — *Grand River Times*, Jan. 11, 1854, page 2

"MELANCHOLY CASUALTY — The dwelling of Harley Bement, Esq., at Georgetown, caught fire in his absence on Tuesday the 11th inst., and burned to the ground. And melancholy to relate, Mrs. Bement, while in the act of rescuing their household goods from the devouring element, became suffocated by the smoke and flames, and was burned to

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Jenison Historical Association
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<http://www.jenisonhistory.org>

death." — *Grand River Times*, Nov. 26, 1856, page 2

"More Damage by the Flood — We learn that the dams of the mills of Messrs. Jenison and Wilder, on Rush Creek, below Grandville, have been carried away by the flood. Also, on Rogue River, Mr. (Continued page 3)

Minutes of the Jenison Historical Association - March 17, 2016

Association/Museum Business

Present: Nellie DeLaat, Sandy Wensink, Ruth Lowing, Mary Raper , Yvonne Williams, Barb Semeyn, Ken Williams, Gene Kort, Ronnie Aungst and Liz Timmer

Guests: McKenna Bosch, Sally Bosch

Minutes Approved: February minutes approved as written. Motion by Ken Williams; seconded by Barb Semeyn

Treasurer's report: February treasurer's report approved as written. Motion by Mary Raper; seconded by Ronnie Aungst

Historian/Curator's Report: Ken reported on cleaning, Matt McCarty using the files, display case improvements by Linda and Ronnie. Maid's room will probably get an antique dresser this week from Ruth Lowing. The township passed along two accessor's books given to Carol Scholma for the museum. The books are dated 1877 and 1878.

Acquisitions Report: Barb reported that the diary of Mrs. Hanchett's maid was added to the collection

Township Report: No report due to Ron's absence.

Maintenance Report: Repairs have been done to the roof

Master Plan Update:

Time Line- Nothing new

Inventory- Continuing

Clear Coat Basement- Still waiting for warmer weather

May meeting: Gene and Ken will present a program on Jenison History for the community. Admission is free. The group's business meeting will be held at 5:45pm. Both will be held in the youth building at Rosewood Church

June meeting: We will host "An Evening at the Movies" again showing Blissvelt Romance, the Railroad Picnic and the student film project about the importance of preserving history. The group's business meeting will be held at 5:45pm. Both will be held at the Jenison Senior Center.

Marketing: Liz has sent publicity about our Open Houses to all regular publications, etc.

Christmas Decorations: Barb reported on plans for next year. She wants to make the Christmas trees more authentic. Barb is researching the various trees. We probably will not use electric lights, wrapped gifts under the tree. We will perhaps use a star and not an angel for a tree topper. We want to keep the glass ornaments, gilded pinecones, gilded walnuts, poinsettias are ok, add garland, ropes, Purdy Village, children's tree the same, etc. Maybe will buy some items.

History Roundtable: Mary is signed up for this and will report on it at the next meeting.

School tours: Two school tours are already booked. Sandy Hill is scheduled for May 13 and Pinewood for May 24.

(Continued page 3)

Minutes of the Jenison Historical Association (Continued)

Other Business:

Wendy Batchelder is willing to consult with us about the clothing displays coming in May and June

If we get asked about a project for the museum, a donation of \$300 for transferring 15 Oral history tapes to CD's would be a great idea.

Yvonne W. gave a short history of Gunther's Caramels to go along with a caramel box we recently found.

Ronnie A. reported on research she is doing. She found a possible error in the *Bend in the River* about Ellis Island and the story of Mr. Andre being detained on entering the United States. He could not have been detained on Ellis Island because the government was not using Ellis Island the year he was detained. Ronnie is also working on a project to photograph all the current businesses in the Township and on research about murders in the township many years ago.

Gene K. is planning to have the photos in the attic tool room redone.

In the News (cont)

Lapham's and A. Roberts & Co.'s mill dams, were swept away." – *Grand Haven news*, April 6, 1859, page 3
"The News At Hudsonville

Hudsonville, July 6 – On the 2d day of July, Frank Weatherwax made complaint against Luman Jenison for keeping his saloon open on Sunday. On the 3d., he was arrested by Deputy Sheriff Richard and brought before Justice Waite, and the time set for the examination was July 6. He appeared before the court today, waived examination and was bound over to Circuit Court."

– *Telegram-herald*, July 7, 1888, page 1

" – Last Saturday Miss Mackus, of this place, and Miss Margie Brown, of Jenison, were out driving a spirited horse belonging to T. Currie, when the horse became frightened, upset the cart and ran away, doing considerable damage to the outfit but fortunately not injuring the girls. -*Telegram-Herald*, Sept. 6, 1888, page 1

"FUNERAL OF GEORGE FLOTO

The funeral of George Floto, the suicide who jumped into the Grand river, was held yesterday afternoon at the Second Baptist church on the corner of California and Gold streets. The services were performed by the Rev. R. J. Van Kirk. The building was filled to its utmost capacity with friends and neighbors of the deceased. Owing to the peculiar and sad circumstances surrounding the unfortunate man's death, considerable notoriety had been given to the case. The remains were encased in a sealed casket and were not exposed to view.

The two Indians who found the body near Jenison were in the city Saturday, and after it had been identified beyond a doubt, Coroner Penwarden paid them the \$40 reward that had been offered for its recovery."

Grand Rapids Herald, April 11, 1892, page 7

Jenison Historical Association Treasurers Report 3/1/16 thru 3/31/16

ALTERNATIVE (move) was ranked as 1st

Upcoming Open Houses

Jenison Museum

“History Mystery”

April 5, 2016 – 10 to Noon AM

April 16, 2016 – 2 to 4 PM

“When and Wear”

May 3, 2016 – 10 to Noon AM

May 21, 2016 – 2 to 4 PM

June 7 – 10-to Noon AM

June 18, 2016 – 2 to 4 PM

Jenison Museum Souvenir’s

Our newest souvenir in the Gift Shop is still available for sale. This year we are highlighting the Jenison Mill. We also have a few of our previous design from 2012 highlighting the Jenison Museum



Prices: \$15 each or two for \$25

*Find us on Facebook at Jenison History Association
and become a friend.*

JHA Trustee’s

Chair

Liz Timmer (2016)
457-3708

Vice Chair/Curator/Tours

Ken Williams (2017)
772.6523

Treasurer/Editor

Ruth Lowing (2017)
540-4709

Social Secretary

Nellie DeLaat (2016)
457-1193

Recording Secretary

Linda Droog (2018)
457-3016

Archivist

Barb Semeyn (2017)
457-9343

Maintenance/Historian

Mike Timmer (2016)
531-1218

Trustee

Yvonne Williams (2017)
772-6523

Gene Kort (2016)
534-6769

Township Rep

Ron Villerius

(####) = year of term expiration

Contact Information: Members may contact the board at the above phone numbers or leave a message at 457-4398 or info@jenisonhistory.org

**Organization Membership in the
Historical Association of Michigan**
Find us on the registry of the Historical
Society of Michigan
www.hsmichigan.org

2016 Association Schedule

Museum Open House Schedule

Saturday, Open House schedule

April 5, 2016 10-12 AM - "History Mystery"

April 16, 2016 2-4 PM - "History Mystery"

May 3, 2016 - 10-12 AM - "When and Wear"

May 21, 2016 - 2-4 PM - "When and Wear"

June 7, 2016 - 10-12 AM - "When and Wear"

June 18, 2016 - 2-4 PM - "When and Wear"

Check out the web site for the entire 2016 schedule

Meeting Schedule

Meetings are all open to the public and held on the **3rd Thursday** of the month at 6:45 PM at the Georgetown Library, **unless noted**. No meeting in December.

Thursday, April 21

Thursday, May 19 - Rosewood Reformed

Church - Youth Building

Thursday, June 16 - Jenison Senior Center

Thursday, July 21

Thursday, August 18

Thursday, September 15

Thursday, October 20

Thursday, November 17

> > No meeting in December

www.jenisonhistory.org

JENISON HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION

PO Box 664
Jenison, MI 49429